

Welcome / Bienvenida

Dear Reader of our 50th Anniversary Proceedings,

Welcome to the peer-reviewed Proceedings of the 33rd Scientific Conference of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC), hosted by the University of the Virgin Islands on June 4-8, 2007. Our President, Dr. Richard Nemeth of UVI's MacLean Marine Science Center, organized and presided over this very special meeting, which commemorated the AMLC's 50th Anniversary while breaking all previous records for attendance and numbers of presentations. Papers presented in this volume are but a sampling of the many fine poster and oral presentations that attendees enjoyed throughout the week.

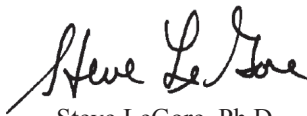
Attendees also appreciated riveting and important presentations by this year's Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rita R. Colwell, and our Featured Speaker, Dr. J. Craig Venter. Dr. Colwell is the immediate past-Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation, and currently a Distinguished University Professor both at the University of Maryland at College Park and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and Chairman of Canon US Life Sciences, Inc. Dr. Venter was the first to publish the human genome, in 2001, and is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of the J. Craig Venter Institute, a not-for-profit, research and support organization dedicated to human, microbial, plant and environmental genomic research, the exploration of social and ethical issues in genomics, and to seeking alternative energy solutions through genomics.

The AMLC is an alliance of 35 marine research, education, and resource management institutions encouraging the production and exchange of research and resource management information, advancing the cause of marine and environmental education in the region, and facilitating cooperation and mutual assistance among its membership. We operate as a 501(c)(3) corporation governed by an Executive Board consisting of one voting Representative from each Institutional Member plus a slate of voting officers elected by the Executive Board.

We also have more than 280 "Individual Members" with professional research and management interests in the Greater Caribbean Region. While the AMLC is at its core an association of institutions, these individual members avail themselves of networking and professional interaction opportunities afforded by AMLC activities while contributing importantly to the growth and diversity of our Association.

The AMLC hosts a Scientific Meeting every other year to which all interested marine research, education and natural resource management professionals are most welcome. Our next (34th) Scientific Conference will be held on May 25-29 in Dominica. Please visit our Internet web site at www.amlc-carib.org for details. If you have professional interests in, or responsibilities for marine resources of the Caribbean, we hope you will accept this invitation to join us.

Sincerely,



Steve LeGore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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